

zenescope

5

FRANCHINI
MARIANI
RODRIGUEZ
HATHAWAY

BELLE



**OATH OF
THORNS**





BEAUTIFUL?

PATRICIA,
ARE YOU OUT OF
YOUR MIND? LOOK
AT WHAT YOU'VE
DONE.

LOUIS. I
HONESTLY
FORGOT YOU
WERE EVEN
HERE.



HE'S DYING.
YOU HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING!

I ALREADY
HAVE.

YOU'RE...
YOU'RE A
MONSTER.



NO,
DEAR. NOT
YET.



PATRICIA, WAIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN NOT
YET? YOU CAN'T BE
THINKING--

TAKE THEM
TO THE HOLDING
CELLS. THEY'VE
SERVED THEIR
PURPOSE, BUT WE
MIGHT NEED THEM
LATER.

THOUGH
I DOUBT IT
NOW THAT
WE HAVE
THIS.



PATRICIA,
PLEASE!

WHATEVER
YOU HAVE PLANNED
YOU CAN'T GO
THROUGH WITH IT.

YOU'RE
NOT THINKING
STRAIGHT.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU OVER THE YEARS, BUT THIS ISN'T YOU.



OH, MY SWEET NAÏVE BROTHER.

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WRONG.



AS YOU KNOW, C.H.I.P. IS A LARGE ORGANIZATION. IT HAS BEEN AROUND AND GROWING FOR THE PAST TWO CENTURIES.

WHAT WE ARE DOING WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.

MORALS CHANGE OVER TIME, AND WE NEED TO BE MOVING RIGHT ALONG SIDE THEM AS THEY DO.



ENOUGH WITH THE GAMES.

CUT TO THE POINT. I KNOW WHAT YOU DO HERE.



DO YOU?

DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT WE DO HERE?

OR DO YOU JUST KNOW WHAT I WANT YOU TO?



BECAUSE YES, WE HUNT THESE BEASTS. WE RESEARCH THEM. BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK WE DO WITH THAT RESEARCH?

WE WEAPONIZE IT. WE SELL THOSE SECRETS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

NO... THAT'S... THAT'S INSANE.



WAR IS EVOLVING, AND THOSE HIGHEST ON THE FOOD CHAIN REMAIN ON TOP.



AND
THANKS TO YOU,
ALEX, WE HAVE
SOMETHING THAT
WILL CHANGE THE
WORLD.

SOMETHING
THAT EVERY
MILITARY WILL
WANT.

AN ARMY
OF UNKILLABLE
SOLDIERS.



PLE...
PLEASE...



OH,
DON'T BEG.
THAT'S
BENEATH
YOU.

YOU
TRULY DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT YOU
HAD WITHIN YOU.
OR MAYBE
YOU DID.

BUT I
KNOW WHAT IT
REALLY IS. AND
IT'S NOT A
CURSE.



IT'S A
GIFT.

A GIFT THAT
IS GOING TO MAKE
ME VERY POWERFUL.
SOME WOULD SAY,
IMMORTAL.



YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS.

IS SHE
TALKING ABOUT
WHAT I THINK
SHE IS?

WE
COULD REALLY
USE BELLE
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW...

"...WHEREVER SHE IS."

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE, DAD?

EXPLAIN TO ME HOW WE ARE SITTING HERE RIGHT NOW WHEN I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS. AND, WHAT, NOW YOU LEAD A PLATOON OF MONSTER HUNTING SOLDIERS?

WHERE ARE YOU EVEN TAKING THAT HEAD?

SLOW DOWN, ANABELLE.

ONE QUESTION AT A TIME.

I'LL ANSWER WHAT I CAN, THAT ISN'T CLASSIFIED.

CLASSIFIED?

SO, WHAT, HUNTING BEASTS IS NOW A BRANCH OF THE MILITARY?

WELL, IT HAS BEEN FOR AWHILE.

IT'S A SPECIAL COVERT DIVISION.



"...THAT WAS THE
WORST DAY OF
MY LIFE.

"IT WAS THE
WORST DAY OF
ALL OF OUR
LIVES.

"IT BROKE US.
ALL OF US.



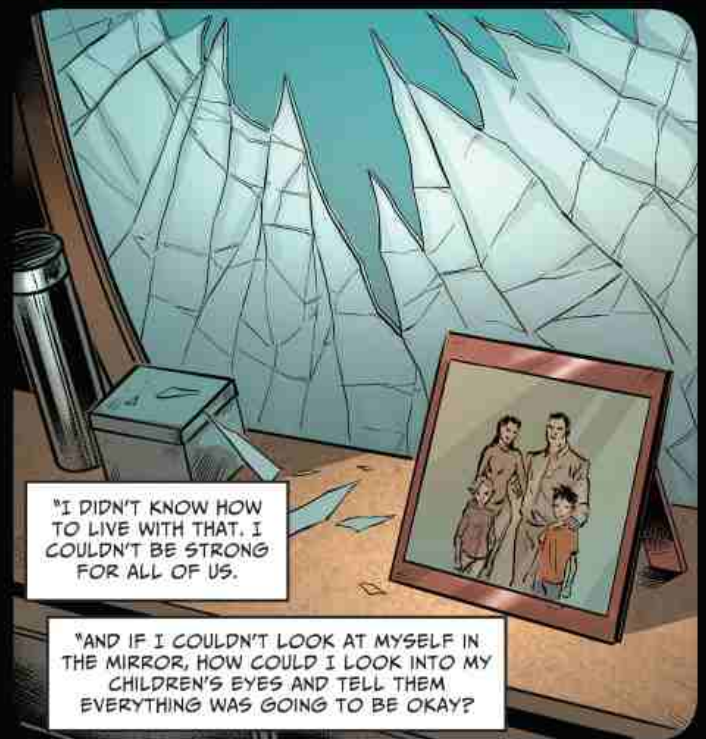
"IT'S MY JOB, MY DUTY, TO
PROTECT YOU AND I FAILED.

"IT MADE ME
REALIZE I WAS
POWERLESS.



"I DIDN'T KNOW HOW
TO LIVE WITH THAT. I
COULDN'T BE STRONG
FOR ALL OF US.

"AND IF I COULDN'T LOOK AT MYSELF IN
THE MIRROR, HOW COULD I LOOK INTO MY
CHILDREN'S EYES AND TELL THEM
EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE OKAY?



"I DIDN'T
BELIEVE IT, SO
WHY SHOULD
THEY?

"SO I DID WHAT I
THOUGHT WAS RIGHT
FOR US ALL.

"I LEFT.



"I KNEW I WAS WEAK AND
NEEDED POWER. SO I WENT TO
THE ONLY POWER I KNOW.

"I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.
ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, ABOUT
BEASTS AND CREATURES OF
NIGHTMARES OUT IN THE WORLD.

"AND LIKE
ANY SANE,
RATIONAL
PEOPLE,
THEY DIDN'T
BELIEVE ME.

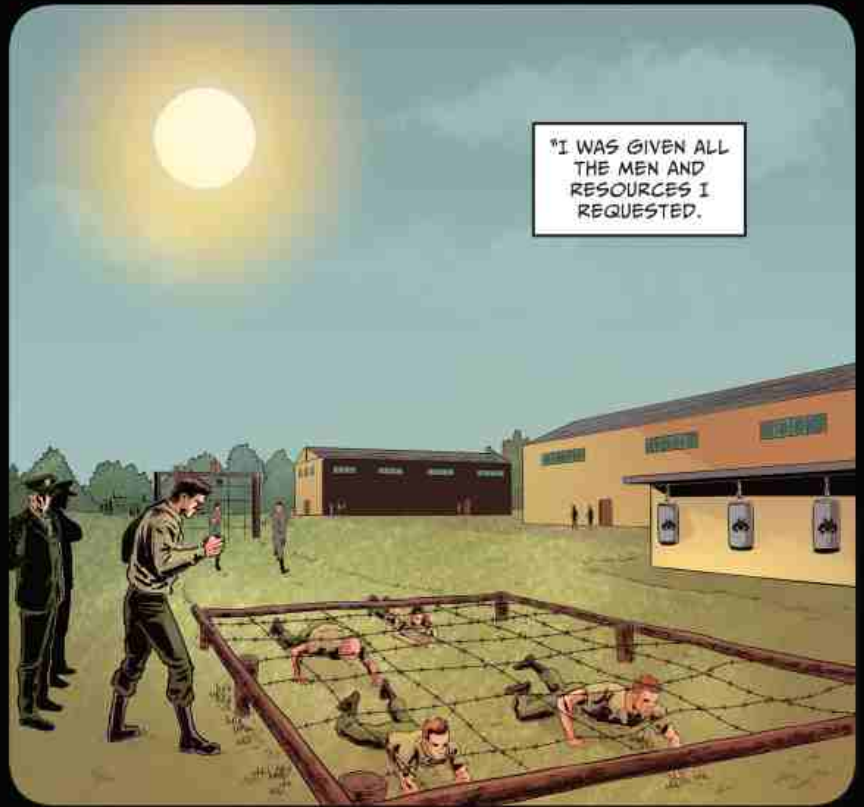
"SO I MADE
THEM. THE ONLY
WAY I COULD.

"THEY WERE GOING
TO LISTEN TO WHAT
I HAD TO SAY.

"AND, TRUTHFULLY,
AFTER THAT STUNT...



"...THEY WERE ALL EARS.



"I WAS GIVEN ALL
THE MEN AND
RESOURCES I
REQUESTED.



"THERE WAS A
NEW WAR TO
FIGHT...



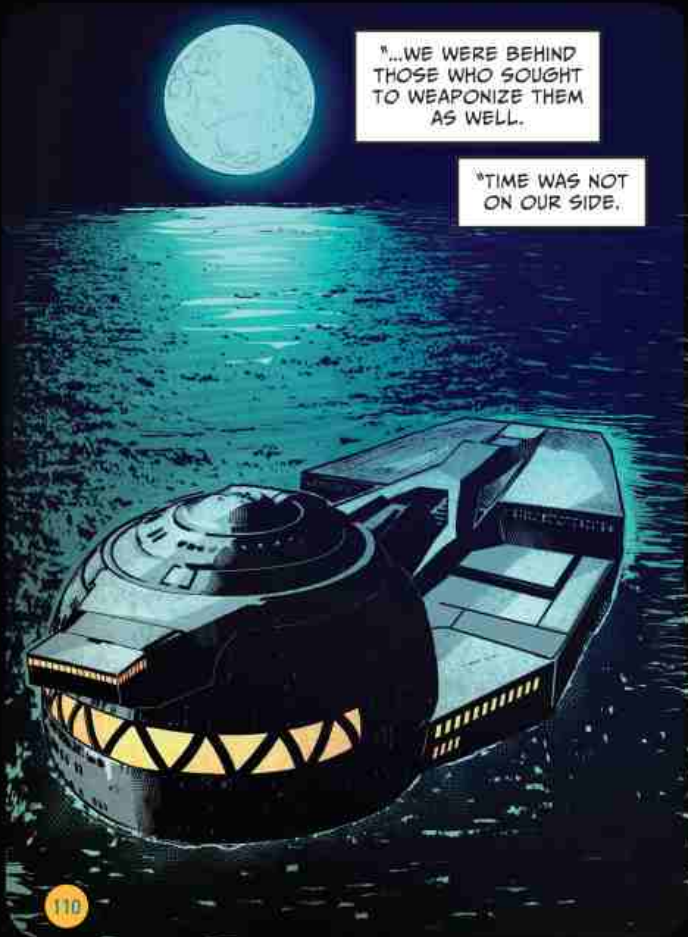
"AND WE HAD A LOT OF
CATCHING UP TO DO.



"WHAT WE WERE LEARNING
IN THE FIELD, OUR
SCIENTISTS WERE LEARNING
TENFOLD IN THE LABS.



"NOT ONLY WERE WE BEHIND ON THE BASIC
KNOWLEDGE OF THESE CREATURES...



"...WE WERE BEHIND
THOSE WHO SOUGHT
TO WEAPONIZE THEM
AS WELL.

"TIME WAS NOT
ON OUR SIDE.



"WE WERE
FINDING OUT
THAT THERE
WAS TRUE
EVIL OUT
IN THE
WORLD...



"...AND IT
WAS OUR
JOB TO
PROTECT
EVERYONE
FROM IT."



WOW, SUCH
A FASCINATING
STORY.

BUT
DON'T TRY AND
ACT LIKE YOU'RE
SOME SELFLESS
HERO.



WHAT? I
THOUGHT YOU WOULD
UNDERSTAND.



OH, YOU
DON'T THINK I
UNDERSTAND?



I UNDERSTAND
PERFECTLY.

YOU DON'T DO
THIS FOR THE GREATER
GOOD. YOU DO IT
FOR REVENGE.

INSTEAD OF
BEING THERE FOR YOUR
FAMILY, YOU NEEDED TO
FEEL POWERFUL. SO DON'T
TELL ME I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

YOU CAN
BELIEVE
WHATEVER YOU
WANT TO TELL
YOURSELF, BUT
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN
MY FATHER FOR
YEARS!



I...I...
YOU'RE
RIGHT...



YOU'RE
RIGHT. I
HAVEN'T BEEN
A GOOD
FATHER.

THAT'S A BIT OF AN
UNDERSTATEMENT.
YOU ABANDONED
YOUR FAMILY. YOU
ABANDONED ME.

AND MAYBE I
DO THIS MISSION FOR
SELFISH REASONS. BUT
WE ARE HELPING PEOPLE,
AND THAT LETS ME
SLEEP AT NIGHT.



HE'S DELUSIONAL. THERE'S NO
GETTING THROUGH TO HIM.

ANY
MINUTE NOW WE
WILL HAVE A LOCK ON
THE C.H.I.P. VESSEL,
AND ONCE WE DO
THERE IS GOING TO
BE A RECKONING.

TOO LONG
HAS THEIR
ORGANIZATION GONE
UNPUNISHED FOR THE
ATROCITIES THEY'VE
CAUSED.



HE'S LOST
HIS MIND.

YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS.



I'VE
NEVER
BEEN MORE
SERIOUS IN
MY LIFE.



THERE'S NO WAY THESE GUYS WILL TAKE CAUTION AROUND MEL AND CANDLESTICK. THEY ARE OUT FOR BLOOD.

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO.

SCREW IT.



WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

OH, I'M PROBABLY GOING TO REGRET THIS.

I SAID...



DEFINITELY.



BUT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO HEAR THAT.

WELL, NO GOING BACK NOW.

NOT LIKE I'D WANT TO.

FWAK

MEL AND CANDLESTICK ARE ALL I HAVE, ALEX TOO. I'D DO ANYTHING FOR THEM.



BUT THIS MAN RIGHT HERE, I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.

ANABELLE, STOP THIS, I'M YOUR FA--

YEAH, THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK IN YOUR FAVOR HERE. JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE BLOOD DOESN'T MAKE YOU SPECIAL.

THAT STRANGELY FELT GOOD TO SAY.

NOW TELL THE PILOT WE ARE MAKING A DETOUR.





WHAT'S GOING ON BACK THERE, COMMANDER?



TELL HIM TO TAKE US OVER THE C.H.I.P. COORDINATES.

I'VE ALREADY CUT OFF ONE HEAD TODAY, DON'T MAKE ME GO FOR NUMBER TWO.

THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH. PLEASE DON'T CALL MY BLUFF.

NOW!

OKAY, OKAY!

SOLDIER, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO TAKE US TO A HOVER OVER THE COORDINATES WE WERE GIVEN.

SIR, THAT WILL GIVE THE ENEMY A HEADS UP ON OUR ARRIVAL.

JUST DO IT!

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

YEAH, SO JUMPING OUT OF A HELICOPTER NOW SEEMS LIKE A HORRIBLE AND TERRIFYING IDEA.

DON'T DO THIS. WE CAN STILL MAKE THIS RIGHT!

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE.

GOOD SEEING YOU, DAD.

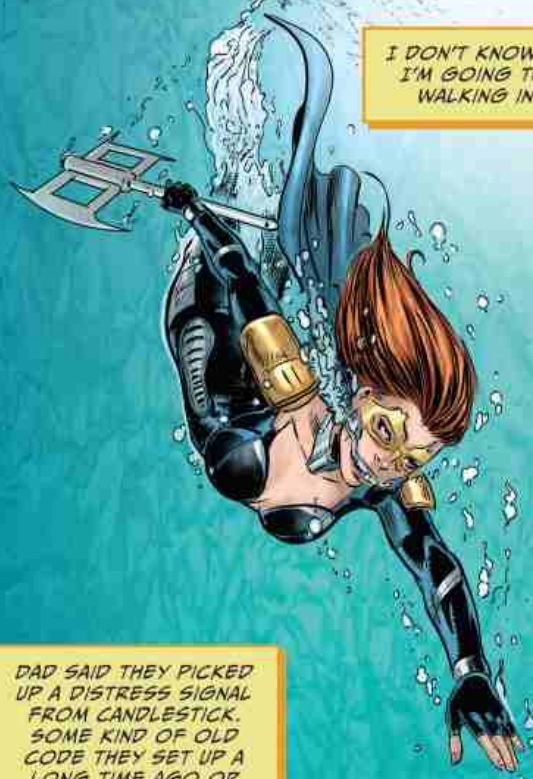
YOU'RE STILL MY DAUGHTER. I CAN PROTECT YOU.

BUT I THINK I JUST GOT TIRED OF THIS LITTLE FAMILY REUNION.

OKAY, BESIDES HOW BADASS THAT EXIT WAS, I REALLY HOPE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.



THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET VERY REAL.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'M GOING TO BE
WALKING INTO.

DAD SAID THEY PICKED
UP A DISTRESS SIGNAL
FROM CANDLESTICK.
SOME KIND OF OLD
CODE THEY SET UP A
LONG TIME AGO OR
SOMETHING.

WHICH I GUESS IS GOOD
NEWS, KNOWING THAT
CANDLESTICK IS UP AND
COHERENT.

BUT THE WHOLE SIGNAL
OF DISTRESS ISN'T
REALLY A POSITIVE.



WHERE IS THIS C.H.I.P.
BASE AT ANYWAY?



I HOPE THEY DROPPED ME
OFF AT THE RIGHT LOCATION.
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD'VE
FOUND IT BY NOW.

NEVERMIND.

DEFINITELY
THE RIGHT
SPOT.

THIS IS
CRAZY.

I NEVER REALIZED
HOW GIGANTIC THIS
PLACE WAS.

HOW AM I GOING
TO GET INTO THIS
THING?



YOU KNOW WHAT, LOUIS, WHY DON'T YOU STICK AROUND. I THINK I'LL LET YOU WATCH THE WORLD CHANGE FIRSTHAND.

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO. IT'LL DO YOU GOOD TO ACCEPT HOW MEANINGLESS YOU ARE.



YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU WILL BECOME.

OH, REALLY?

UHM, MAYBE LET THE CRAZY LADY CONTROLLING THE GUYS WITH GUNS DO WHAT SHE WANTS.



YOU THINK I DIDN'T PLAN THIS OUT AND RUN THROUGH EVERY SCENARIO?

I HAVE BEEN BUILDING THIS FOR YEARS. PLACING EVERY PIECE METICULOUSLY TOGETHER.

PATRICIA, I'M BEGGING YOU, AS YOUR BROTHER.

DON'T D--



THUD

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU.



YOU WERE ALWAYS THE WEAK ONE. NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

BUT, NOW IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

A comic book panel showing Aquaman swimming underwater. He is wearing his blue and gold suit with a cape. Bubbles are rising around him. In the background, a large, dark, rectangular structure is partially submerged in the water.

I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE
AND THEY DIDN'T GET THE FUN
STARTED WITHOUT ME.

A comic book panel showing four soldiers in green uniforms and caps walking on a ship's deck. They are walking towards a woman with white hair who is holding a red heart. A speech bubble from the woman says, "COME HERE, MEN, AND PREPARE TO TAKE ON THE GREATEST HONOR OF YOUR LIVES."

COME
HERE, MEN, AND
PREPARE TO TAKE
ON THE GREATEST
HONOR OF YOUR
LIVES.

A wide shot of a large, dark ship at night. The ship has many windows, some of which are lit up. The ship is surrounded by water, and there are many bubbles rising from the bottom. The ship is moving towards the right.

PLACE YOUR HAND
ON THE CASKET. BRACE YOURSELVES
AS WE SHED THE FEAR OF MAN AND
BECOME GODS.







ANABELLE,
I'M SO GLAD
YOU COULD
JOIN US.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

BELLE

OATH OF THORNS